Export of herbs

†641. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to increase the export of herbs from India to the world market by encouraging their production in the country;

(b) if so, the share of India in the world market of herbs;

(c) whether his Ministry has formulated any action plan to increase the production capacity of herbs in various States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) It is a fact that India's share in the global exports of herbal medicines is low as till now the production of herbal medicine has been in unorganized sector with traditional methods.

Following steps have been taken to increase production of herbal medicines:

(i) Mandatory testing of metals in all purely herbal ASU medicines for exports w.e.f. 01.01.2006 onwards.

(ii) Testing facilities for ASU drugs in the country have been strengthened by upgradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories and accreditation of private drug testing laboratories.

(iii) State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU drug manufacturers of the provision of Rule 161(1) and (2) relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of an ASU drugs, the true list of all the ingredients used in the manufacture of the preparation together with the quantify of each of the ingredients incorporated therein. The relaxation in labeling provision have been made for the export of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines.

(iv) A research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely use Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies. Good manufacturing practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country.

(v) Government of India has initiated awareness programmes for educating the industry through its Export Promotion Council, Pharmexcil. Besides, Government i introduced Testing facilities for ASU drugs in the country have been strengthened b, upgradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories.

Revival of sick Industrial enterprises

642. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total number of sick industrial enterprises when the present Governmen

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

took over, category-wise and out of which how many are revived and have started functioning as on 31.1.2008;

(b) what are the reasons for poor progress besides lack of interest and priority on the part of the concerned; and

(c) in the process of revival, the details of cases ripe for revival and the time-frame before which revival could be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) consider revival of sick industrial enterprises registered with the Board under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision). Act 1985 (SICA). As per the information received from BIFR, as on 1st May, 2004, a total of 4943 industrial units were registered with BIFR. During the period from 1st May, 2004 to 31st January, 2008, a total of 193 industrial units have been discharged from BIFR/SICA consequent upon their networth turning positive.

Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) maintains records of industrial in public and private sectors which register themselves with BIFR under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). Further, according to the BIFR, the sick industrial companies attribute change in Government policies, managerial problems, production and technical problems, marketing problems, financial problems, lack of adequate infrastructure, delay in sanction and disbursement of Term Loan by financial institutions and banks and high interest costs as the reasons for industrial sickness/closure at the time of registration with the Board.

Steps to reverse negative growth rate

643. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by the Confederation of Indian Industry has shown that 17 sectors in the country have recorded negative growth rate;

(b) whether such trend is attributed to rising interest rates, strong rupee and the Free Trade Agreement signed with some countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to reverse the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) A study by the Confederation of Indian Industry has shown that 17 sectors in the country have recorded negative growth rate during April-September 2007. The official data, however, do not support this finding.

(b) and (c) Based on the latest information available the growth rates, in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), for major industry groups for the first nine months (April-December) of 2007-08 over the corresponding of the previous year are as under: